

# Gulf of the Farallones



## Habitats

Coastal beaches

Rocky intertidal

Mud & tidal flats

Salt marsh

Esteros

Pelagic, open ocean

Deep benthos, continental shelf and slope

# Key Species Dungeness crab

California gray whale

Stellar sea lion

Common Murre

Ashy Storm-petrel

# Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary

includes nurseries and spawning grounds for

commercially valuable species, at least 33

species of marine mammals, and 15 species

of breeding seabirds. One fifth of California's

harbor seals breed within the sanctuary. The

concentration of breeding seabirds in the

Farallon Islands are home to the largest

continental United States. The sanctuary

boundaries include the coastline up to mean

high tide, protecting a number of lagoons,

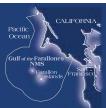
estuaries, bays, and beaches for the public.

#### **Research Activities**

The Gulf of the Farallones Sanctuary brings monitoring and restoration, assessment. and development in a variety of research activities. Its monitoring program studies rocky intertidal habitats within the sanctuary. In the Beach Watch program volunteers are trained to conduct shoreline monitoring. Sanctuary workers are helping to restore marshes in **Bolinas Lagoon and Tomales Bay and working** to reintroduce Common Murre populations to the outer coasts of the sanctuary. **Development of a Geographical Information** System (GIS) is part of sanctuary research endeavors. Assessments of pollutants in seabirds and Stellar sea lions and Ashy Stormpetrel population studies have been carried out.

### **Education Activities**

Each year the Sanctuary Sea Camp holds a week-long summer camp for children. During the school year the sanctuary developed curriculum and teacher training to further marine protections. Ongoing community outreach involve seminars, presentations, and publications of marine programs.



Location
Along the coast of
California north and
west of San Francisco

Protected Area 1,255-square miles

Designation January 1981

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Above: Harbor seals; left to right: gray whale; kayakers and fishermen share Tomales Bay; Farallon







